

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-07 AGR-01
/090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:WPOLLACK:SMA
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
ARA:JABUSHNELL
ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA

-----022418 051640Z /11

P 051626Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169263

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PORC, DR

SUBJECT:FONMIN JIMENEZ/CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FONMIN JIMENEZ, GODR CONSIDERS GUZMAN PRESIDENT-ELECT AND IS IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROCEDURES. JIMENEZ ADDED THAT PR ELECTORAL CHALLENGES WERE DIRECTED AT LOCAL CONTESTS ANDSHOULD BE RESOLVED BY JCE SHORTLY. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE DEMOCRATIC PROSPECTS IN D.R. AND HEMISPHERE, OASGA AND SUGAR. END SUMMARY.

2. GODR FONMIN JIMENEZ, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR VICIOSO, MET JUNE 30 WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ARA ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL AND ARA/CAR DIRECTOR HEWITT. DISCUSSION REVOLVED PRIMARILY AROUND USG CONCERN WITH POST-ELECTION PERIOD UNCERTAINTIES IN DR. JIMENEZ DECLARED
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THAT BALAGUER ADMINISTRATION WILL RELINQUISH POWER AUGUST 16, PRESIDENT IS MEETING WITH GUZMAN ON WEEKLY BASIS AND ADMINISTRATION IS TREATING GUZMAN IN EVERY WAY AS PRESIDENT-ELECT. ACCORDING TO FONMIN, PR ELECTORAL CHALLENGES ARE DIRECTED AT LOCAL CONTESTS AND MIGHT AT MOST AFFECT ONE TO THREE DEPUTYSEATS AND A SENATORIAL ELECTION. HE EXPECTED JCE DECISION WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. NEWSOM INDICATED QUICK JCE RESOLUTION OF CHALLENGES WAS ENCOURAGING NEWS NOTING USG FAVORABLE VIEW OF DOMINICAN DEMOCRACY. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE NOTED DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF PROLONGED UNCERTAINTY OVER ELECTION RESOLUTION. JIMENEZ AGREED DELAY WAS SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR EVERYONE BUT POINTED OUT CHALLENGES WERE LEGAL AND OUT OF GODR HANDS, AND THAT JCE PROCEEDINGS WERE OPEN. HE INDICATED THAT NORMALLY PRO-PR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SECTOR HAS MADE IT CLEAR IT FAVORS PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER AUGUST 16, AND ALONG WITH ARMED FORCES, WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT GUZMAN ADMINISTRATION.

5. BOTH NEWSOM AND JIMENEZ AGREED THAT THERE WAS A TREND FAVORABLE TO DEMOCRACY IN HEMISPHERE. JIMENEZ EXPOUNDED ON HOW THIS WAS CASE IN THE DR EMPHASIZING CHANGES SINCE 1965 IN THE PRD; PROSPECTS THAT PRD ADMINISTRATION WOULD STAFF IMPORTANT OFFICES WITH DOMINICANS OTHER THAN PARTY STALWARTS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED LEADERS, AND ESPECIALLY IMPENDING LEGISLATION LIMITING PRESIDENTS TO A SINGLE FOUR-YEAR TERM.

6. TURNING TO OTHER ISSUES, JIMENEZ INDICATED THAT THE PANAMA TREATIES HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON U.S.-HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. THE NEXT STEP FOR THE U.S., HE ADDED, WAS
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TO MAKE ITS MARKETS MORE AVAILABLE TO LATIN AMERICAN COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY SUGAR. JIMENEZ ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR U.S. RATIFICATION OF ISA AND WAS TOLD THAT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD IMPROVED, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL PRICE, INCREASING DOMESTIC SUPPORT PRICES, MIGHT HAVE LONG TERM LIMITING EFFECTS ON U.S. MARKET BY STIMULATING NEW CORN SYRUP SWEETENERS. JIMENEZ URGED U.S. PROTECT DOMINICAN ACCESS TO MARKET AND REITERATED DESIRE THAT U.S. RATIFY ISA. VANCE

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